

Docket 56368
Serial No. 10/717,688

PATENT APPLICATION

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action on the merits dated August 30, 2004. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing 5 amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 8, 16, and 19 were previously withdrawn. By the foregoing amendment, claims 4, 6, 14, and 17 have been canceled and claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 15, and 18 have been amended. Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-13, 15, 18, and 20 remain in this application with claims 1, 9, and 18 being independent.

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings are objected to because labels 50 (Fig. 2a); 60 (Fig. 2c); 78, 18, 80 (Fig. 6a); 82, 84, 86, 90 (Fig. 8a); 86, 88, 92 (Fig. 8b); 86, 88, 90 (Fig. 8c); and 34 (Fig. 9b) are unclear. Replacement drawing sheets 2/9, 6/9, 8/9, and 9/9 that include Figs. 2a-2c, 6a-6c, 8a-8c, 15 and 9a-9c, respectively, are attached. The labels noted above have been replaced.

IN THE CLAIMS:

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections:

20 Claims 1-5, 9-12, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Vu et al. (US 4,982,992). However, the examiner has indicated that claims 6-7 and 13-15 stand objected to as depending from rejected base claims (i.e. claims 1 and 9) but that

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they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims and all applicable 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections were overcome. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 6 as well as the limitations of claim 4 which is intervening. Claims 4 and 6 have been canceled, and 5 claims 5 and 7 have been amended to properly depend from claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance along with claims 2-3, 5, and 7 which depend therefrom, and such is respectfully requested.

Likewise, claim 9 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 14, claim 14 has been canceled, and claim 15 has been amended to properly depend from claim 9. 10 Therefore, claim 9 should now be in condition for allowance along with claims 10-13 and 15 which depend therefrom, and such is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its original base claim (claim 17,) and claim 17 has been canceled.

15 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections:

Claims 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The examiner states that “the interior channel” lacks clear antecedent basis in claim 18. Claim 20 depends from claim 18, and therefore the rejection is also applied to claim 20. However, the examiner has indicated that –the channel– may be an appropriate replacement. 20 Claim 18 has therefore been amended to replace “the interior channel” with “the channel”. Because claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form as noted above, and because the 35

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U.S.C. § 112 rejection of claim 18 has been overcome, claim 18 should now be in condition for allowance along with claim 20 which depends therefrom, and such is respectfully requested.

This application should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested. If the examiner has any suggestions that would place this application in even better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,


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